



COUNCILMEMBER CARL DeMAIO

FIFTH DISTRICT

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 4, 2010

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers

FROM: Councilmember Carl DeMaio *Carl DeMaio*

RE: High-Speed Internet – “Google Fiber for Communities”

I would like to call attention to an intriguing undertaking by the well-known search-engine firm, Google, which involves testing “ultra-high speed broadband networks in one or more trial locations across the country.”

These networks are described as potentially delivering “Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today...at a competitive price to at least 50,000 and potentially 500,000 people.”

The Request for Information (RFI) posted by Google provides further details of this undertaking and instructions for municipalities (specifically encouraging responses from city managers, elected officials, and mayors) to respond to the RFI by March 26th. (See Attachment 1)

This experiment that Google is proposing may offer San Diego an opportunity to be one of the first locations with widespread community access to internet speeds that the vast majority of individuals have never experienced. The ramifications of such an opportunity for our residents and businesses are succinctly noted by Google in the “Frequently Asked Question” section of their website:

“In the same way that the transition from dial-up to broadband made possible the emergence of online video and countless other applications, ultra high-speed bandwidth will drive more innovation – in high-definition video, remote data storage, real-time multimedia collaboration, and others that we cannot yet imagine. It will enable new consumer applications, as well as medical, educational, and other services that can benefit communities. If the Internet has taught us anything, it's that the most important innovations are often those we least expect.”

High Speed Internet – “Google Fiber for Communities”
March 4, 2010
Page Two

The City of San Diego would be well served to thoroughly explore and vet this potential opportunity and consider submitting a response to Google’s RFI in this matter.

I am confident that increasing the economic competitiveness of our city and region is a goal we all share, and this public-private partnership may offer an opportunity to do so by making San Diego a leader in state-of-the-art technological infrastructure. The City should ensure that this opportunity is not dismissed if it can in fact deliver as advertised by Google.

Additionally, as the financial viability of the proposed Downtown Library remains very much in question, the pursuit of 21st century Information Technology infrastructure may provide the same, if not increased benefits to the community in terms of information-access than those promised by potentially outdated brick-and-mortar projects. I would encourage that the City examine this opportunity through such a forward-looking lens as well.

Attachment 1

Taken from: <http://www.google.com/appserve/fiberrfi/public/overview>

Project Overview

What is Google doing and what does it seek to achieve?

Key Dates:

Issuance of RFI:

February 10, 2010

Response Deadline:

March 26, 2010

Google reserves the right to modify any of these dates. Any changes will be published on this website.

Imagine sitting in a rural health clinic, streaming three-dimensional medical imaging over the web, and discussing a unique condition with a specialist in New York. Or downloading a high-definition, full-length feature film in less than five minutes. Or collaborating with classmates around the world while watching live 3D video of a university lecture. Universal, ultra high-speed Internet access will make all this, and more possible. We've urged the FCC to look at new, and creative ways to get there in its National Broadband Plan – and now we're announcing an experiment of our own.

Google is planning to build, and test ultra-high speed broadband networks in a small number of trial locations across the country. We'll deliver Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today with 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections. We'll offer service at a competitive price to at least 50,000, and potentially up to 500,000 people.

As a first step, we're putting out a Request for Information (RFI) to help identify interested communities. We welcome responses from local government, as well as members of the public.

Our goal is to experiment with new ways to help make Internet access better, and faster for everyone. Here are some specific things that we have in mind:

- Next generation apps: We want to see what developers and users can do with ultra high-speeds, whether it's creating new bandwidth-intensive "killer apps" and services, or other uses we can't yet imagine.
- New deployment techniques: We'll test new ways to build fiber networks; to help inform, and support deployments elsewhere, we'll share key lessons learned with the world.
- Openness and choice: We'll operate an "open access" network, giving users the choice of multiple service providers. And consistent with our past advocacy, we'll manage our network in an open, non-discriminatory, and transparent way.

Like our WiFi network in Mountain View, the purpose of this project is to experiment and learn. Network providers are making real progress to expand and improve high-speed Internet access, but there's still more to be done. We don't think we have all the answers – but through our trial, we hope to make a meaningful contribution to the shared goal of delivering faster and better Internet for everyone.

Instructions

Submission/Procedures and Timeframe

1. All responses to this RFI should be submitted through the interactive response forms found on this website. In order to respond to this RFI, you will have one of two options:
 - i. Full community response by a local government interested in having its community serve as a trial location.
 - ii. Other interested parties and non-governmental respondents, explaining why the trial should be held in the respondent's community.
2. If any item in the Local Government RFI is unclear, a written request for clarification may be sent to Google. Such requests must be sent only through this website by selecting the contact link in your response.
3. An FAQ can be found [here](#).
4. The completed response to the RFI (local government or by other interested parties) must be submitted through this website. The interactive response forms are designed to allow you to begin your response, save it, and come back to it for further work. The response will only be finally complete when you have clicked the "Send response" button. Once you have sent your response, it can no longer be edited.
5. All responses must be submitted no later than 5:00 pm (PT) on the Response Deadline date. Any submission submitted after the deadline will not be accepted; however, Google may make exceptions at its sole discretion.
6. Responses will be evaluated and ranked by a selection team designated by Google for that purpose. Google may make a decision on how to proceed with respect to responses at any time without further notice. Upon completion of Google's evaluation, Google will provide information about the responses and next steps. As one possible outcome of the RFI, a short list of responding communities may be asked to provide further information, though this will only occur at Google's discretion.
7. All communications to Google regarding the Local Government RFI must be made solely through this website, please use the contact link in your response.

Legal Statements

Confidential Information Notice

Google does not seek any proprietary or confidential information as part of your response. Accordingly, please do not submit any information that you do not want to become publicly available. Google will not be under any obligation to treat submissions as confidential, and Google may disclose submissions to third parties as part of the evaluation process. All information and data contained in your response should be submitted on an unrestricted basis.

Disclaimers

Legal Status

This RFI does not constitute, and should not be interpreted as, a contract between Google and any entity or person for the performance of any obligation. Instead, the RFI seeks to identify required information from communities, and to establish a common framework within which an agreement for a fiber trial may be reached.

The submission of a response to the RFI, and subsequent evaluation of that response by Google, also does not constitute a contract or any type of agreement between Google and any respondent for the performance of any obligation. Only the execution by Google of a written contract will obligate Google in accordance with the terms and conditions contained in any such contract. All responses to this RFI become the property of Google.

Responses to this RFI may not be made by employees of, consultants to or other persons connected with Google. By submitting a response to either portion of this RFI, each respondent certifies that no employee of, consultant to, or other person connected to Google who has been or is associated with the respondent has participated in preparation of the response.

Any personal information Google receives as part of the RFI will be used by Google only for purposes of planning and running the services. Google will only share this information with third parties where necessary for planning and running the services.

Cost of RFI

This RFI does not commit Google to pay any expense incurred by you in the preparation of your response.

FAQ

What is Google planning to build?

Google is planning to build and test ultra-high speed broadband networks in one or more trial locations across the country. We'll deliver Internet speeds more than 100 times faster than what most Americans have access to today over 1 gigabit per second, fiber-to-the-home connections. We'll offer service at a competitive price to at least 50,000 and potentially up to 500,000 people.

Why is Google doing this?

Our goal is to experiment with new ways to help make Internet access better and faster for everyone.

What criteria will Google use to select the communities for this project?

Above all, we're interested in deploying our network efficiently and quickly, and are hoping to identify interested communities that will work with us to achieve this goal. We also want to work with a community where we can bring significant benefits to residents and develop useful proofs-of-concept that can have a broader impact. For example, we're looking for opportunities to experiment with deployment techniques that can inform and accelerate broadband deployment elsewhere as well. To that end, we'll use our RFI to identify interested communities and to assess local factors that will impact the efficiency and speed of our deployment, such as the level of community support, local resources, weather conditions, approved construction methods and local regulatory issues. We will also take into account broadband availability and speeds that are already offered to users within a community. The RFI is a first step – we plan to consult with local government organizations, as well as conduct site visits and meet with local officials, before announcing our final decisions.

When does Google expect to announce a target community?

We plan to announce a target community or target communities this year.

How much will the services cost?

The final price has not yet been determined, but we intend to offer service at a competitive price.

Why would consumers need 1 Gbps connections?

In the same way that the transition from dial-up to broadband made possible the emergence of online video and countless other applications, ultra high-speed bandwidth will drive more innovation – in high-definition video, remote data storage, real-time multimedia collaboration, and others that we cannot yet imagine. It will enable new consumer applications, as well as medical, educational, and other services that can benefit communities. If the Internet has taught us anything, it's that the most important innovations are often those we least expect.

When does Google expect to have a 1 Gbps network up and running?

Today's announcement is the first of many steps along the way. It's too early to announce a definite launch date, but our hope is to have a network up and running as soon as possible. Right now our focus is on finding the right communities for our trial.

What do you mean by "at least 50,000 and potentially up to 500,000 people?"

We have not yet determined the size of the trial, which will be based in large part on the availability of appropriate locations. We expect that we will provide this service to a minimum of 50,000 people and up to as many as 500,000 people, most likely in multiple communities.

Can I submit on behalf of a non-city municipality?

Yes, we will accept responses from any type of municipality including counties, military bases, reservations, etc. Please use the "local governments" link if you are a government or municipal official; otherwise please use the "residents and community groups" link.

Who is allowed to submit a response on behalf of a municipality?

Respondents should clearly state the position in which they represent their city. We encourage responses from city managers, elected officials, and mayors. If you do not represent your city, please submit a statement of interest for residents and community groups.

What if I don't have all the information needed to complete the RFI?

We are asking municipalities to provide as much information as possible about their location, but all submissions are welcome. Please fill in as many of the fields as you can and let us know of any special circumstances that might be affecting your submission.